

SURVEY '99

*Exploring some of the interests and concerns of
York County's High School Age Citizens*

*Sponsored by the Youth Commission
for the
York County Board of Supervisors*

March 17, 1999

SURVEY '99

Background & Purpose

Canvassing the views of County teens has been a major project of past Youth Commissions. Since its establishment in March of 1983, the Commission had sponsored no less than 2 County-wide surveys as well as several "youth forums" or open meetings where high school students could voice their opinions on a variety of issues. The most recent survey took place in March, 1996. Some 700 high school students gave their responses to 18 school-related questions, two (2) items dealing with County-wide concerns, and one question relating to the November presidential election.

Work for *Survey '99* actually began more than a year ago as a project of the 1997-98 York County Youth Commission. The commissioners were intent on achieving their fundamental purpose for serving as a liaison or link between the County's youth and the Board of Supervisors. Their desire was to conduct a comprehensive high school student survey that would accurately portray some of the important interests and concerns of local teens as they relate to both school and county life. They wanted to administer a statistically significant survey instrument that the Board of Supervisors could use as a tool in their decision-making process for youth-related issues. It was hoped that the survey would prove useful to school officials as well.

The 1997-98 Commission began by obtaining the services of the College of William and Mary's Center for Public Policy Research (the Center). In early February, 1998, two staff members from the Center gave a very informative seminar to the Commission covering basics in survey design. Topics included overall survey objectives and use of information, as well as survey design issues such as reliability, validity, sampling, open and closed-ended questions, and the avoidance of bias. Survey administration and interpretation of results were also addressed.

Aside from learning a little about the technical complexity involved with conducting a worthwhile survey, the Commission was suddenly confronted with the enormity of their task from a time standpoint. The Center's staff members stated that a sound, County-wide survey of high school youth could be expected to take the commissioners at least a year to design and administer. The instructors encouraged the students to continue their effort during the Spring of 1998 and then turn the project over to the 1998-99 Commission for completion during their term. Not wanting to just "slap something together" haphazardly, the Commission followed this advice, and did succeed in completing the first draft of questions before their last meeting in early June, 1998.

At our first regular meeting in September, 1998, this year's Youth Commission voted to complete the survey. We too have committed to the same reliability that was originally established by last year's Commission. Our sincere hope is that the survey will help inform the members of the Board of Supervisors as they consider the interests and concerns of their high school-aged constituents in their decision-making for the County.

Process

SURVEY DESIGN

The 1998-99 Youth Commission was excited to “take the baton” from the 1997-98 Commission and began working on the survey in September, 1998. The Commission first reviewed the February, 1998 seminar material prepared by the College of William and Mary’s Center for Public Policy Research, the research arm of the College’s Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy (The Jefferson Program). Next, the Commission brainstormed issues it felt should be included in Survey ’99. In addition, the commissioners decided to include the following components in the survey if possible:

1. **Machine-scored Survey:** A “bubble sheet” comprised of closed-ended questions that could be administered “in-mass” to large numbers of students. This would be the foundation of the survey process and the basis for the survey’s statistical findings. It would include a “General Information” section followed by two sections addressing both School and County issues.
2. **Short Answer Survey:** This open-ended, short answer survey would be randomly distributed among the students. It would provide more detailed information on the students’ likes and dislikes concerning their school and county experience.
3. **Video Interviews:** Students providing their names on the hand-scored survey would be contacted and asked if they would be willing to express some of their views on video. The intent here was to enable the Board of Supervisors to hear directly from the County’s teens and to hopefully see the “human-side” of the raw data collected from the machine-scored survey.

After a month of creating and revising questions for the machine-scored survey, several commissioners met with four graduate students enrolled in The Jefferson Program at William and Mary. These students, who are all members of William and Mary’s Graduate Policy Association Community Service Committee, volunteered their time to critique Survey ’99, thereby helping to insure that the survey would be as reliable, valid, and unbiased as possible.

After incorporating the comments from the Center’s graduate students, the Youth Commission then submitted a revised survey draft to members of the Board of Supervisors as well as to School Division administrative staff for their collective review and input. Then, yet another draft was prepared for final review by the graduate student volunteers in early January, 1999. Their comments were again incorporated into the survey which then went through a number of minor iterations for grammar and final printing format by members of the Youth Commission and School Division staff.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Youth Commission representatives met with the School Division Superintendent to discuss the upcoming survey and to seek school assistance in administering it. The Superintendent gave his full support and committed the use of the School Division's capabilities in designing, printing, and evaluating the machine-scored/closed-ended survey component. In addition, he agreed to allow the entire survey to be distributed and administered during school hours. This support gave the Commission the option of planning for a large number of respondents, far more than would even be needed for statistical integrity should the survey be randomly distributed to just a few students. As a result, the Commission decided to plan for mass distribution to all students so that as many as possible would have the opportunity to express their interests and opinions to County and School officials.

The School Division printed some 3,200 machine-scored surveys while the Youth Commission prepared 160 hand-scored copies. The School Division then distributed both versions to the County's four public high schools and the York River Regional School for administration through the students' English classes. The short answer surveys were randomly distributed at a ratio of one for approximately every 20-25 copies (or roughly one per class) of the machine-scored sheets. The bulk of the classes administered the surveys from February 10 - 12, 1999. School principals then sent them to the Division's administrative offices where the bubble sheets were evaluated by Information Services' personnel. All results from these surveys remain on file in the Information Services' computer data base so that additional analysis and cross tabulations can be performed as needed by either the Schools or the County. The short answer surveys were sent to the Youth Commission for evaluation.

The following survey component totals were accounted for in this project:

1. **Machine-scored Bubble Sheets:** A total of 2,212 bubble-sheets were completed by the students. Please see *Attachment 1* for a sample of this form.
2. **Short Answer Surveys:** A total of 87 students took the short answer/open-ended surveys. A sample of these forms appears in *Attachment 2*.
3. **Video Interviews:** A total of 69 students were videotaped at the four public high schools. Most of these (46) were students who were responsive on the short answer surveys, gave their names, had a signed school media release, were present in school during the taping, and agreed to be interviewed when contacted. The remaining 23 students were either nearby when the interviews were taking place in the schools and agreed to be interviewed themselves, or were approached by school staff when additional interviews were requested by the Commission.

It should be noted that the Commission attempted to make the survey available to those County teens enrolled in either a private high school or who are home-schooled. A revised version featuring the “general information” and “county issues” sections of the short answer survey was developed for this purpose. Interested teens could take this survey by making arrangements with the County’s Parks and Recreation office. A press release was printed to this effect, but unfortunately omitted the Parks and Recreation office as the point of contact. As a result, no teens outside the County’s public school system responded to the survey.

The results for Survey ’99 were announced to the Board of Supervisors at their public meeting on March 17, 1999.

Results

Please refer to *Attachment 3* for a complete listing of results from the 2,212 machine-scored bubble sheets. Please note that the totals for specific questions on the machine-scored survey do not always equal 2,212 due to the number of “omits” and “multi-marked” responses that are indicated.

This report highlights some of the significant results derived from the statistical data obtained from the machine-scored surveys

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Attachment 4 compares the relationship between the respondents on the machine-scored survey and the actual school population based on enrollment figures for February 11, 1999. These five variables are compared and shown to be fairly close to one another in most categories: population, gender, race, grade, and home high school.

The single largest discrepancy is population. A total of 2,212 students took the machine-scored survey compared with the approximately 3,355 actually enrolled. The combined total of 2,299 respondents on the machine scored/bubble sheets (2,212) and short answer surveys (87) represents approximately 68.5% of the 3,355 high school students enrolled at the time of the survey. It is assumed that absenteeism, class field trips, and personal appointments are some of the major reasons why almost one-third of the students were not surveyed. It is doubtful that this “missing third” would significantly vary survey results due to the large number of actual respondents and because of their close association across gender, ethnic, grade, and school lines when compared with the actual enrolled student population on February 11. In other words, the survey is a very large and representative sampling of the County’s public school population. It is believed that its results are therefore very reliable.

SCHOOL-RELATED QUESTIONS

York County high school students proved to be very ambitious. To the question, "What would you like to do after graduating from high school?", 74% of students answered that they plan to attend a 4-year college or university. The remaining percentage answered they plan to work, enter military service, attend a 2-year college, or that they were undecided.

York County students also proved to be very connected to the outside world. A surprisingly high number (55%) of students use the Internet at least three times every week, if not daily. An additional 23% use the Internet roughly once a week. Since the Youth Commission plans to create a Web Page in the next few months, the Commission finds this result to be especially positive.

Safety, helpful teachers, class size, Channel One, and block scheduling were all positive aspects in York County high schools. A total of 83% of students felt that their schools provided a safe environment at least "most of the time." While 39% of the students indicated that they do not ride the bus, 46% of those remaining felt safe on their bus at least "most of the time." Only 4-5% of the students responded that they "rarely" or "never" feel safe at school or on the bus. A total of 65% of students said that their teachers were willing to help them outside of class at least "most of the time." A total of 75% of students responded that class size was either "just right" (20%) or "usually okay" (55%). An overwhelming 77% of students felt that their high school should continue to air Channel One each day. In addition, 70% of students liked block scheduling, and 68% liked block scheduling better than a 6-period-a-day, non-block schedule.

York County schools received mixed reviews in terms of computer availability, facilities, and prevention programs like "D.A.R.E" and "Just Say No." A total of 48% of students felt that their school has enough computers available for student use, while 39% felt that the schools did not. A total of 52% of students rated school facilities as "excellent," or "good, while 46% characterized them as either "fair" or "poor." Only 5% of students felt that programs such as "D.A.R.E" and "Just Say No" were effective in reducing drug use, while 31% felt they were "somewhat effective," 37% felt they were "somewhat ineffective," and 23% felt they were "not effective at all." It should be remembered that the existing "D.A.R.E." program in York County schools has only been funded for the 5th grade. Middle school programs are being used this semester. It is unknown how student opinions would vary if this program had been available to them in middle school or during their high school experience.

COMMUNITY-RELATED QUESTIONS

Overall, York County students seemed to be satisfied with the quality of life in York County. A total of 19% of students enjoyed living in York County "very much," while 53% felt it was "okay," giving this question a satisfaction rating of 72%.

Students felt that York County neighborhoods were quite safe. 42% said they "always" felt their neighborhood was a safe place to live, while 46% said that their neighborhood

was safe "most of the time." Students also rated the appearance of York County highly, with 72% of students responding that most of York County at least looked "nice."

Students were generally not too supportive of the County's 12:30 a.m. curfew as an effective means of reducing crime, with 56% responding that it was not effective and another 30% saying they didn't know.

The survey indicated that York County's high school students do not strongly feel able to communicate their opinions to County officials or that their opinions are valued. Only 27% indicated they could express their views on important issues and only 11% felt their opinions would be valued. The other responses to these two questions indicated a large number of students who just didn't know. A total of 32% were not sure they could express their opinions to County officials, while 26% did not know whether or not their opinions would be valued. Clearly, the Youth Commission has its work "cut out" to more effectively communicate with the County's high school aged youth and make them aware of Board availability and concern. It is hoped that the upcoming Web site will prove helpful in this regard.

Many students indicated their preference for traveling outside the County with their friends for entertainment. While shopping centers and restaurants were popular "hang outs" for some students, 45% indicated that there was not a place that they liked to go within York County. In addition, many students indicated that they go to other localities to spend their leisure time. Only 42% marked York County as the locale where they typically go with their friends, while 50% preferred to spend time in one of the County's neighboring jurisdictions. Among other things, this could be having an adverse financial impact on the County, since student spending, when calculated by grade and projected for the total school enrollment (3,255 on February 11, 1999) is approximately \$56,900 per week for such items as food, clothing, entertainment, and gasoline.

When asked what about York County recreational programs, student responses were mixed. While a relatively high number (33%) of the students rated the youth programs and leagues as either "excellent" or "good," a full 54% of students had never attended a York County recreational program for high school students such as skating or a county-wide dance. A total of 33% rated these programs as being at least "okay."

As to their feelings on items the County could implement to improve activities for teens, 46% marked "Trips (Washington D.C., etc.), 24% indicated adding a recreation center (or a discount at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center if living in Bruton), and 23% desired more county-wide dances.

Of special note in the survey is the fact that 24% of the students responded that they would be willing to volunteer 2-4 hours a month in volunteer service and "would make the time" to do so. This represents over 1,600 hours of potential service a month for the County to try and take advantage of for those individuals and agencies needing assistance.

Short Answer Surveys & Video Interviews

The 87 short answer surveys were reviewed by the Youth Commission, and the names of those who were at least fairly responsive were given to administrators at each school for coordinating possible video interviews. A total of 46 respondents who had media releases and were both agreeable to the interview and present in school that day were videotaped. Another 23 students were interviewed as well when the Commission sought additional students for as large and representative sample as possible. From these 69 students, a total of 21 edited video clips were selected to be shown on the Youth Commission's 5-minute videotape presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

During the video interviews, students were asked to respond to the following questions:

- What do you like most about your school?
- What do you like least about your school and what suggestions do you have to improve it?
- What do you like most about living in York County?
- What do you like least about living in the County and what suggestions do you have to improve things?

Recommendations

Most high school-aged teens generally enjoy living in York County, most frequently citing it's safe environment, overall quality of life, rural beauty, cleanness, library, youth recreational programs, schools, and historical significance. Only 25% of the students stated that they either "usually don't like" living here or "don't like it at all."

In spite of the large majority that find County life at least fairly appealing, there are a few concerns about the County that appear to be widely shared among its high school youth. Based on the results of Survey '99's machine-scored data as well as oft-repeated comments in the short answer surveys and video interviews, the York County Youth Commission respectfully submits the following recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors:

1. ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

A. Facilities: The closed-ended survey shows that 24% of the students strongly support either a Recreation Center or, for those living in the Bruton area, some type of resident discount at the existing James City County/Williamsburg Community Center. Related to this need are results from another question where a full 45% of the students responded that, "There isn't a place in York County where my friends and I like to go." In fact, yet another question revealed that at least 50% of the students "most often hang out with friends" in one of the six neighboring localities on the peninsula.

If anything, support for additional recreational facilities was even stronger in the open-ended survey and video interviews. Over and over again, teens commented about the need for a “recreation center,” “community center,” “teen club,” “activity center,” or “athletic facilities.” They cited the desire for a “safe place to hang out with friends,” “a place to play sports,” or a facility in which to “work out,” “run,” or “swim,” and often mentioned facilities located in James City County, Williamsburg, or Newport News. They mentioned wanting to use such a place for after-school, weekend, and summer activities. “Open gyms” at school sites were also suggested during the video interviews.

Most students are probably not aware of recent discussions between County staff and the YMCA exploring the possibility of the “Y” operating a recreation center in the lower County, nor of the plan to simultaneously arrange for a reciprocal pay arrangement for upper County citizens to use the James City County/Williamsburg Community Center. However, it seems overwhelmingly clear from this survey that York County’s high school students would strongly welcome and support these initiatives. It would be advisable for the County to aggressively solicit widespread student input and include student representatives in the planning/design process for any new facility. This would help insure optimal use by County teens.

B. Programs: A total of 33% of the respondents rated the County’s youth recreation programs or leagues either “Good” or “Excellent.” This is a relatively high mark based on other choices offered in the same question. However, another question in the closed-ended survey reveals that only 7% of high school-aged youth like County skating and dances “a lot.” Another 26% think those types of County-sponsored activities “are okay,” while only 10% actually “don’t like” these offerings. Most revealing is that a full 54% indicated that they “have never attended” skating programs or county-wide dances. This seems to indicate that while County “youth leagues” (usually for elementary and middle school-aged youth) are generally highly regarded by high school-aged teens, other activities are not so attractive and not well attended.

This was echoed strongly in the video interview portion of the survey. Many students mentioned “recreational programs for the younger kids” among their comments about what they liked most about living in York County. However, they often followed this by saying that the County needed more programs for high school-aged youth. The survey did not canvas exactly what type of recreational activities older teens would like, so additional study seems needed. One closed-ended question did indicate strong support for “Trips (Washington D.C., etc.),” with 46% of the students strongly favoring such activities. Perhaps the County could consider sponsoring well-chaperoned excursion trips to attractions like the nation’s capital, or for activities such as skiing, biking, trail hiking, or river rafting.

Whatever is selected, the survey seems clear that older teens desire more County-sponsored activities. Few programs are currently offered and not well attended from a county-wide perspective. Again, it would be advisable to obtain as much student input in any future program development as possible.

2. DEVELOPMENT AND CONGESTION

Concerns over increasing development and related traffic congestion were repeatedly voiced during the course of the 49 video interviews conducted at the 3 public high schools in the middle and lower sections of the County. No one commented on these issues from among the 16 students interviewed at Bruton High School.

Students expressed dismay over “the cutting down of trees” in order to build “more housing developments,” “gas stations,” and “strip malls.” Students apparently feel that the county’s rural nature, beautiful green areas, and clean environment...things that they clearly identify among the reasons why they most like living here...are being threatened by over development in the lower County.

Increasing traffic congestion was also a concern, particularly by those students attending York and Grafton high schools. “Too many traffic lights,” the need for “synchronized lights,” and “dangerous road construction and congestion” were cited.

Perhaps the County could involve students more in the age-old planning conflict between population growth, increasing services and even sought after entertainment and shopping opportunities on the one hand with the desire to maintain community aesthetics and open space on the other. No doubt students and adult residents alike often feel like they have to travel to places outside the County for “something to do” or “to shop.” Yet a part of this dilemma lies in the fact that many of us would probably rather visit those same places than live in them because of their own urban sprawl and congestion.

In any case, bringing students into the process, soliciting their input, educating them as to the complexity of the problem while at the same time explaining efforts that have taken place to help control development and traffic would seem to be worthwhile measures based on input from the survey. A possible forum for these and other county issues might be “town meetings” or assemblies conducted at the high schools by members of the Board and County staff which could also be aired on the County’s cable channel.

NOTES:

1. No specific recommendations are included for the School Division at this time since it is felt that the items pertaining to it should be carefully analyzed by individual school. All machine-scored statistics are available on the School Division’s data base and can be studied by either the School Division or perhaps the Youth Commission at a later date.

2. From the video interviews, the following concerns were frequently voiced by students throughout the school system’s high schools:

- A strong desire to implement a 10-point grading scale
- Concern for teachers pressured to conform to the State’s Standards of Learning (SOL’s)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 1998-99 York County Youth Commission would like to express its sincere appreciation to a number of people for their invaluable contributions in the development of Survey '99. Please note that any survey flaws, misinterpretations, or omissions are the sole responsibility of the 1998-99 Youth Commission and its staff liaisons. However, without the efforts of the following individuals, this project could not have been completed, and to each of them we owe our debt of thanks:

College of William and Mary Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy Research:
Our gratitude for the February, 1998 seminar that got us started. Thanks to Dr. Deborah Green, Associate Professor of Psychology and Faculty Research Assistant, and to Research Analyst Paulette Parker.

College of William and Mary Center for Public Policy Research:
Our thanks to Dr. David Finifter, Director, and Ms. Kelly Metcalf-Meese, Research Coordinator, for their encouragement and for linking us up with the Jefferson Program graduate students.

The Graduate Policy Association's Community Service Committee:
Our deepest gratitude for these William and Mary graduate student volunteers who gave hours of their time individually critiquing drafts, meeting together for discussion, and meeting with Youth Commission representatives to assist in the design process. Thank you for all of your time and wise advice!
Mr. John Baker
Ms. Brittany Craig
Mr. Randy Rosso
Ms. Elizabeth Stone

The York County School Division:
As outlined in the report, this project could never have enjoyed the scope it did without the tremendous cooperation, and hours of effort contributed by these individuals:
Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent
Dr. James Tucker, Director of School Administration
Mr. Michael Tylavsky, Jr., Director of General Services
Mr. Doug Meade, Manager of Information Services
Ms. Mary Childers, Information Support Specialist

And a special thanks to the principals, secretaries, and other staff members at each of the high schools for your tremendous help in coordinating the video interviews. Thank you for your time and patience! And, our sincere thanks to the high school English teachers for their time in administering the survey!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, Continued

The York County Board of Supervisors:

We appreciate your giving us this opportunity to address you! Also, our special thanks to Mr. Meadows for his time, interest, and encouragement as the Youth Commission's Board Representative!

Mr. Joe Mowery, Video Information Specialist with the County's Cable Channel 36, for the hours of editing you so patiently performed for the video presentation.

Mr. Brian Fuller, Mrs. Kathy Sambuchi, and Mrs. Alice Campo from Parks and Recreation for your tremendous efforts in putting this report and our Power Point presentation together!

The 1997-98 Youth Commission.

Thanks to all of you for your vision in starting this whole process over a year ago, and for your sincere desire to be an effective link between the County's youth and its elected leaders.

The High School Age Citizens of York County:

Thanks to all who gave your time to express your interests, views and concerns, and our apologies to all those who for whatever reason, did not have the opportunity to do so. Our hope is that this has represented your collective opinions accurately, and that through this process, you realize that you **can** express yourselves to the County's officials and that they do **value** what you have to say.

ATTACHMENT 1

SAMPLE

MACHINE-SCORED “BUBBLE SHEET”

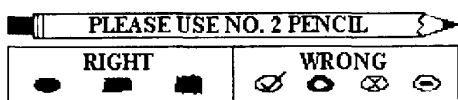
With Closed-Ended Questions

York County "Student Survey '99"

Sponsored by the Youth Commission

This survey is being given to about 3,000 York County high school students to give us an opportunity to tell a little about ourselves and voice our opinions on a variety of county and school issues. Your input is important, so please take a few minutes and answer the following questions by darkening in the best answer with your pencil in the space provided. Please give only one answer for each question unless the directions ask you to give more than one. You may leave any question unanswered that you do not feel comfortable answering. Of course, your responses to the survey will remain anonymous.

This information will help County and School officials know who we are and how we feel about a variety of things. The results of this survey will be made public this spring. *Thanks for your help!*



I. General Information

1. Gender

☐ Male ☐ Female

2. Race

☐ White ☐ American Indian
☐ African American ☐ Alaskan Native
☐ Hispanic ☐ Other
☐ Asian or Pacific Islander

3. Grade

☐ 09 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

4. Home High School?

☐ Bruton ☐ Tabb ☐ York River Regional School
☐ Grafton ☐ York

5. How long have you lived in York County?

☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 5-10 years
☐ 1-5 years ☐ Over 10 years

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities? (Mark all that apply):

☐ After-school job
☐ Community sports team, organization, or scouting
☐ Religious youth group
☐ School athletic team
☐ School club or organization
☐ Summer job
☐ Volunteer work
☐ Weekly lessons in music, theater, or other arts

7. What would you like to do after graduating from high school? (Mark just one):

☐ Work
☐ Military service
☐ 2-year community college
☐ 4-year college or university
☐ I don't know

8. How often do you use the Internet, either through a computer at home, in school, and/or at the public library?

☐ Usually every day ☐ Maybe once a week
☐ About 3 times a week ☐ Almost never

II. School Issues

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either "Good" or "Excellent"? (Please mark all that apply):

☐ Faculty concern for and encouragement of students
☐ Interesting classes
☐ Class discipline and order
☐ A safe environment
☐ None are very strong points

2. Are your teachers willing to help you outside of class time?

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never
☐ Most of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ I don't know

3. Is the number of students in most of your classes:

☐ Just right ☐ Usually too many
☐ Usually okay ☐ Way too many

4. How much time do you usually spend working on homework each night?

☐ 0-30 minutes ☐ 1-2 hours ☐ more than 3 hours
☐ 30-60 minutes ☐ 2-3 hours

5. Do you think that your school has enough computers available for student use?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

6. Overall, how would you rate the condition of your school's building and its facilities (such as desks, lighting, lockers, restrooms, cafeteria, etc.)?

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

7. What do you think about the Block Scheduling system that your high school uses?

☐ I like it ☐ I don't like it ☐ I don't know

8. Compared to a normal 6-period-a-day, non-block schedule do you:

☐ Like block scheduling better
☐ Like a 6-period day better
☐ I don't know

9. Do you think that your high school should continue airing "Channel One" each day on television?

☐ Yes ☐ No

II. School Issues Cont.

10. How would you rate the effectiveness of prevention programs such as "D.A.R.E." and "Just Say No" in reducing drug use?

- ☐ Very effective ☐ Not very effective
☐ Fairly effective ☐ Not effective at all

11. Do you generally feel safe at your high school?

- ☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never
☐ Most of the time ☐ Rarely

12. Do you generally feel safe when riding the bus to and from school?

- ☐ Always ☐ Rarely
☐ Most of the time ☐ Never
☐ Sometimes ☐ I don't ride the bus

III. County Issues

1. Do you generally enjoy living in York County?

- ☐ Yes, very much ☐ I usually don't like it
☐ It's okay ☐ No, I don't like it at all

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either "Good" or "Excellent"? (Please mark all that apply):

- ☐ The youth recreation programs or leagues
☐ The County's parks and athletic fields
☐ The public library's materials and programs
☐ The overall quality of life
☐ The County's schools
☐ I'm not satisfied with any of the above

3. Do you believe you can express your opinion to County officials on important issues?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

4. Do you believe that County officials value the opinions of high school students?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

5. Do you generally believe that your neighborhood is a safe place to live?

- ☐ Always ☐ Only sometimes
☐ Most of the time ☐ Almost never

6. Do you feel that York County's 12:30 a.m. curfew for those under 18 is effective in reducing crime?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

7. How would you rate York County's physical appearance (roads, businesses, etc.)?

- ☐ It's beautiful!
☐ Most areas look nice
☐ It needs a lot of improvement
☐ It's ugly

8. About how much money do you usually spend during a week? (on food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, etc.).

- ☐ None ☐ \$5-10 ☐ \$20-30
☐ \$1-5 ☐ \$10-20 ☐ Over \$30

9. What do you think about recreational programs sponsored by York County for high school students such as "Skate, Rattle, and Roll," or a county-wide dance?

- ☐ I like them a lot
☐ They are okay
☐ I don't like them
☐ I have never attended them

10. Where do you **most often** "hang out" with friends? (Just mark one).

- ☐ York County
☐ Williamsburg/James City County
☐ Gloucester
☐ Hampton
☐ Newport News
☐ Poquoson

11. Where within York County do you **most enjoy** "hanging out" with friends? (Please mark one):

- ☐ Bowling alley (AMF York Lanes, Rt. 17)
☐ Ice Palace
☐ Restaurants
☐ "Skate, Rattle, and Roll" (at Dare Elementary or at the Historic Triangle Community Center)
☐ Shopping centers
☐ Yorktown Waterfront
☐ There isn't a place in York County where my friends and I like to go

12. From the following, what activities would you **most** want York County to offer for teens outside of school? (Mark your **top two choices**):

- ☐ Clubs (4H, etc.)
☐ County-wide dances at schools
☐ Lessons (music, art, sports, etc.)
☐ Recreation Center (or discount at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center if living in Bruton)
☐ Trips (Washington D.C., etc.)
☐ None of the above

13. Would you commit to helping other people living in the County by volunteering 2 - 4 hours of your time a month?

- ☐ Yes, and I would make the time
☐ Yes, if I could find the time
☐ No, I don't have the time now
☐ No, I am not interested right now

14. Would you like to live in York County as an adult?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

*Thanks again for your
time and opinions!*

ATTACHMENT 2

SAMPLE

SHORT ANSWER SURVEYS

With Open-Ended Questions

York County Student "Survey '99"

Sponsored by the Youth Commission

This version of the 1999 high school survey is different than the one given to most of the other students in your class. It is randomly being given to one out of about every 20 students so that we can get more detailed answers to some school and county issues. So please take your time and write your opinions as honestly and completely as you can. Your input is important!

Of course, your answers will remain anonymous. Writing your name below simply allows us the opportunity to contact you and ask additional questions about your views. We will not release your name.

Thanks for your help!

I. General Information

Name (optional): *If you would like*, please print your name below. This will allow us the opportunity to get back in touch with you and get more of your feelings on some of these issues. And, if you are willing later on, we may even video you briefly talking about these issues for a presentation to the Board of Supervisors this spring.

Your name: _____

Please circle the correct answer for the following:

1. (A) male (B) female?
2. Race? (A) White (B) African American (C) Hispanic (D) Asian or Pacific Islander
(E) American Indian (F) Alaskan Native (G) Other
3. Grade? (A) 9 (B) 10 (C) 11 (D) 12
4. Home High School? (A) Bruton (B) Grafton (C) Tabb (D) York
(E) York River Regional School
5. How long have you lived in York County?
(A) Less than 1 year (B) 1-5 years (C) 5-10 years (D) Over 10 years

II. School Issues

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank either "Good" or "Excellent" ?

Circle all that apply:

- (A) Faculty concern for and encouragement of students (B) Interesting classes
(C) Class discipline and order (D) A safe environment (E) *Other* (please specify)
(F) None are very strong points

Please explain your answers to this question:

Please turn over and complete the back side as well

2. What things do you like **least** about your high school? How does it need to improve?

III. County Issues

1. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either “Good” or “Excellent”?

Circle all that apply:

- (A) The youth recreation programs or leagues (B) The County’s parks and athletic fields
(C) The public library’s materials and programs (D) The overall quality of life
(E) The County’s schools (F) Safe neighborhoods (G) The County’s physical appearance
(H) *Other* (please specify) (I) None are very strong points

Please explain your answers to this question:

2. What things do you like **least** about living in York County? How does it need to improve?

3. Would you be willing to help other people living in the County by volunteering 2 - 4 hours of your time a month? (Circle one):

- (A) Yes, and I would make the time (B) Yes, if I could find the time
(C) No, I do not have the time (D) No, I am not interested right now

If interested in volunteer work someday, explain what kind of work you would most like to do:

Thanks again for your time and opinions!

ATTACHMENT 3

RESULTS

MACHINE-SCORED “BUBBLE SHEETS”

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

1. Gender

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Male	1114	50%
2	Female	1074	49%
Omits		21	1%
Multi-Marked		3	0%
Mean		1.49	

2. Race

Choice		Count	Percent
1	White	1505	68%
2	African American	321	15%
3	Hispanic	84	4%
4	Asian or Pacific Islander	99	4%
5	American Indian	24	1%
6	Alaskan Native	4	0%
7	Other	84	4%
Omits		50	2%
Multi-Marked		41	2%
Mean		1.66	

3. Grade

Choice		Count	Percent
1	09	568	26%
2	10	522	24%
3	11	612	28%
4	12	491	22%
Omits		15	1%
Multi-Marked		4	0%
Mean		2.47	

4. Home High School

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Bruton	320	14%
2	Grafton	658	30%
3	Tabb	679	31%
4	York	529	24%
5	York River Regional School	6	0%
Omits		13	1%
Multi-Marked		7	0%
Mean		2.65	

5. How long have you lived in York County?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Less than 1 year	228	10%
2	1-5 years	738	33%
3	5-10 years	584	26%
4	Over 10 years	631	29%
Omits		19	1%
Multi-Marked		12	1%
Mean		2.74	

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 After-school job	805	36%
Omits	1407	64%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 Community sports team, organization, or scouting	907	41%
Omits	1305	59%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 Religious youth group	769	35%
Omits	1443	65%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 School athletic team	1052	48%
Omits	1160	52%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 School club or organization	1072	48%
Omits	1140	52%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 Summer job	979	44%
Omits	1233	56%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 Volunteer work	735	33%
Omits	1477	67%

6. In the past year, have you been involved in any of the following activities?

Choice	Count	Percent
1 Weekly lessons in music, theater, or other arts	531	24%
Omits	1681	76%

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

7. What would you like to do after graduating from high school?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Work	105	5%
2	Military service	82	4%
3	2-year community college	156	7%
4	4-year college or university	1627	74%
5	I don't know	200	9%
	Omits	19	1%
	Multi-Marked	23	1%
	Mean	3.80	

8. How often do you use the Internet, either through a computer at home, in school, and/or at the public library?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Usually every day	733	33%
2	About 3 times a week	433	20%
3	Maybe once a week	505	23%
4	Almost never	506	23%
	Omits	17	1%
	Multi-Marked	18	1%
	Mean	2.36	

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either " Good " or " Excellent "?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Faculty concern for and encouragement of students	850	38%
	Omits	1362	62%

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either " Good " or " Excellent "?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Interesting classes	591	27%
	Omits	1621	73%

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either " Good " or " Excellent "?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Class discipline and order	620	28%
	Omits	1592	72%

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either " Good " or " Excellent "?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	A safe environment	1298	59%
	Omits	914	41%

1. Which of the following areas in your school would you rank as either " Good " or " Excellent "?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	None are very strong points	526	24%
	Omits	1686	76%

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

2. Are your teachers willing to help you outside of class time?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Always	458	21%
2	Most of the time	979	44%
3	Sometimes	534	24%
4	Rarely	83	4%
5	Never	25	1%
6	I don't know	87	4%
	Omits	17	1%
	Multi-Marked	29	1%
	Mean	2.31	

3. Is the number of students in most of your classes:

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Just right	437	20%
2	Usually okay	1212	55%
3	Usually too many	419	19%
4	Way too many	102	5%
	Omits	31	1%
	Multi-Marked	11	0%
	Mean	2.09	

4. How much time do you usually spend working on homework each night?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	0-30 minutes	523	24%
2	30-60 minutes	605	27%
3	1-2 hours	627	28%
4	2-3 hours	277	13%
5	more than 3 hours	128	6%
	Omits	17	1%
	Multi-Marked	35	2%
	Mean	2.48	

5. Do you think that your school has enough computers available for student use?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Yes	1051	48%
2	No	855	39%
3	I don't know	284	13%
	Omits	16	1%
	Multi-Marked	6	0%
	Mean	1.65	

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

6. Overall, how would you rate the condition of your school's building and its facilities (such as desks, lighting, lockers, restrooms, cafeteria, etc.)?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Excellent	318	14%
2	Good	841	38%
3	Fair	647	29%
4	Poor	382	17%
Omits		19	1%
Multi-Marked		5	0%
Mean		2.50	

7. What do you think about the Block Scheduling system that your high school uses?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	I like it	1542	70%
2	I don't like it	394	18%
3	I don't know	249	11%
Omits		19	1%
Multi-Marked		8	0%
Mean		1.41	

8. Compared to a normal 6-period-a-day, non-block schedule do you:

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Like block scheduling better	1494	68%
2	Like a 6-period day better	421	19%
3	I don't know	263	12%
Omits		31	1%
Multi-Marked		3	0%
Mean		1.43	

9. Do you think that your high school should continue airing "Channel One" each day on television?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes	1694	77%
2	No	374	17%
Omits		138	6%
Multi-Marked		6	0%
Mean		1.18	

10. How would you rate the effectiveness of prevention programs such as "D.A.R.E." and "Just Say No" in reducing drug use?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Very effective	106	5%
2	Somewhat effective	684	31%
3	Somewhat ineffective	818	37%
4	Not effective at all	511	23%
Omits		80	4%
Multi-Marked		13	1%
Mean		2.82	

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

11. Do you generally feel safe at your high school?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Always	893	40%
2	Most of the time	953	43%
3	Sometimes	198	9%
4	Rarely	37	2%
5	Never	50	2%
Omits		69	3%
Multi-Marked		12	1%
Mean		1.78	

12. Do you generally feel safe when riding the bus to and from school?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Always	576	26%
2	Most of the time	450	20%
3	Sometimes	118	5%
4	Rarely	42	2%
5	Never	73	3%
6	I don't ride the bus	872	39%
Omits		62	3%
Multi-Marked		19	1%
Mean		3.56	

1. Do you generally enjoy living in York County?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes, very much	414	19%
2	It's okay	1179	53%
3	I usually don't like it	246	11%
4	No, I don't like it at all	303	14%
Omits		57	3%
Multi-Marked		13	1%
Mean		2.20	

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	The youth recreation programs or leagues	731	33%
Omits		1481	67%

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	The County's parks and athletic fields	624	28%
Omits		1588	72%

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	The public library's materials and programs	744	34%
Omits		1468	66%

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	The overall quality of life	911	41%
Omits		1301	59%

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	The County's schools	711	32%
Omits		1501	68%

2. Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either " Good " or "Excellent "?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	I'm not satisfied with any of the above	439	20%
Omits		1773	80%

3. Do you believe you can express your opinion to County officials on important issues?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes	603	27%
2	No	799	36%
3	I don't know	712	32%
Omits		95	4%
Multi-Marked		3	0%
Mean		2.05	

4. Do you believe that County officials value the opinions of high school students?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes	248	11%
2	No	1301	59%
3	I don't know	573	26%
Omits		87	4%
Multi-Marked		3	0%
Mean		2.15	

5. Do you generally believe that your neighborhood is a safe place to live?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Always	923	42%
2	Most of the time	1010	46%
3	Only sometimes	134	6%
4	Almost never	67	3%
Omits		71	3%
Multi-Marked		7	0%
Mean		1.69	

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

6. Do you feel that York County's 12:30 a.m. curfew for those under 18 is effective in reducing crime?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes	455	21%
2	No	1233	56%
3	I don't know	429	19%
Omits		91	4%
Multi-Marked		4	0%
Mean		1.99	

7. How would you rate York County's physical appearance (roads, businesses, etc.)?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	It's beautiful!	132	6%
2	Most areas look nice	1453	66%
3	It needs a lot of improvement	444	20%
4	It's ugly	124	6%
Omits		52	2%
Multi-Marked		7	0%
Mean		2.26	

8. About how much money do you usually spend during a week? (on food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, etc.).

Choice		Count	Percent
1	None	71	3%
2	\$1-5	152	7%
3	\$5-10	338	15%
4	\$10-20	570	26%
5	\$20-30	444	20%
6	Over \$30	512	23%
Omits		103	5%
Multi-Marked		22	1%
Mean		4.29	

9. What do you think about recreational programs sponsored by York County for high school students such as "Skate, Rattle, and Roll," or a county-wide dance?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	I like them a lot	149	7%
2	They are okay	565	26%
3	I don't like them	222	10%
4	I have never attended them	1195	54%
Omits		72	3%
Multi-Marked		9	0%
Mean		3.16	

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

10. Where do you most often "hang out" with friends?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	York County	924	42%
2	Williamsburg/James City County	203	9%
3	Gloucester	13	1%
4	Hampton	311	14%
5	Newport News	554	25%
6	Poquoson	28	1%
	Omits	105	5%
	Multi-Marked	74	3%
	Mean	2.73	

11. Where within York County do you most enjoy "hanging out" with friends?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Bowling alley (AMF York Lanes, Rt. 17)	166	8%
2	Ice Palace	73	3%
3	Restaurants	204	9%
4	Skate, Rattle, and Roll (at Dare Elementary or at the Historic Triangle Community Center)	22	1%
5	Shopping centers	385	17%
6	Yorktown Waterfront	131	6%
7	There isn't a place in York County where my friends and I like to go	998	45%
	Omits	95	4%
	Multi-Marked	138	6%
	Mean	5.41	

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Clubs(4H,etc.)	299	14%
	Omits	1913	86%

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	County-wide dances at schools	512	23%
	Omits	1700	77%

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

	Choice	Count	Percent
1	Lessons (music, art, sports, etc.)	286	13%
	Omits	1926	87%

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Recreation Center (or discount at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center if living in Bruton)	534	24%
Omits		1678	76%

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Trips (Washington D.C., etc.)	1023	46%
Omits		1189	54%

12. From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	None of the above	559	25%
Omits		1653	75%

13. Would you commit to helping other people living in the County by volunteering 2 - 4 hours of your time a month?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes, and I would make the time	520	24%
2	Yes, if I could find the time	854	39%
3	No, I don't have the time now	415	19%
4	No, I am not interested right now	354	16%
Omits		63	3%
Multi-Marked		6	0%
Mean		2.28	

14. Would you like to live in York County as an adult?

Choice		Count	Percent
1	Yes	343	16%
2	No	1138	51%
3	I don't know	671	30%
Omits		56	3%
Multi-Marked		4	0%
Mean		2.15	

York County School Division

Total mean grouped by items with same number of choices

Choices	Items	Mean
1	25	1.00
2	2	1.34
3	7	1.83
4	11	2.42
5	4	2.68
6	4	3.22
7	2	3.47

ATTACHMENT 4

COMPARISONS

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
MACHINE-SCORED BUBBLE SHEET
RESPONDENTS AND ACTUAL
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FIGURES
FOR 5 VARIABLES:

1. TOTAL POPULATION
2. GENDER
3. RACE
4. GRADE
5. HOME HIGH SCHOOL

York County School Division

York County "Student Survey '99" Sponsored by the Youth Commission

Gender

Choice	Count	Percent	Actual 02/11/99	Percent
1 Male	1114	50%	1680	50%
2 Female	1074	49%	1675	50%
Omits	21	1%		
Multi-Marked	3	0%		
Totals	2212	100%	3355	100%

Race

Choice	Count	Percent	Actual 02/11/99	Percent
1 White	1505	68%	2615	78%
2 African American	321	15%	510	15%
3 Hispanic	84	4%	88	3%
4 Asian or Pacific Islander	99	4%	135	4%
5 American Indian	24	1%	7	0%
6 Alaskan Native	4	0%	0	0%
7 Other	84	4%	0	0%
Omits	50	2%		
Multi-Marked	41	2%		
Totals	2212	100%	3355	100%

Grade

Choice	Count	Percent	Actual 02/11/99	Percent
1 09	568	26%	1058	32%
2 10	522	24%	863	26%
3 11	612	28%	736	22%
4 12	491	22%	695	21%
5 U*	0	0%	3	0%
Omits	15	1%		
Multi-Marked	4	0%		
Totals	2212	100%	3355	100%

Home High School

Choice	Count	Percent	Actual 02/11/99	Percent
1 Bruton High School	320	14%	533	16%
2 Grafton High School	658	30%	1166	35%
3 Tabb High School	679	31%	949	28%
4 York High School	529	24%	707	21%
5 York River Regional School	6	0%	0	0%
Omits	13	1%		
Multi-Marked	7	0%		
Totals	2212	100%	3355	100%

ATTACHMENT 5

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING**

MARCH 17, 1999

.....

Survey '99

Surfing the Views & Concerns of York
County's High School Age Citizens

Sponsored by the York County Youth Commission

.....

Survey '99

Surfing the Views & Concerns of York
County's High School Age Citizens

Sponsored by the York County Youth Commission

YOUTH COMMISSION: PURPOSE

- Board of Supervisors established the Youth Commission in March 1983.
- PURPOSE: "To serve as a communications link between the youth of York County and the government of York County."
- FUNCTIONS:
 - "To serve as a forum for the youth of the County to present their ideas, needs, and suggestions".
 - "To investigate needs, problems, and issues affecting the youth of York County".

YOUTH COMMISSION: SURVEYS/FORUMS

- During its 16 year history, the Youth Commission has sponsored several surveys and "Youth Forums" or open meetings in an effort to adequately represent a youth perspective to the Board of Supervisors.
- Most recent survey conducted in March, 1999.
 - 700 Respondents
 - 18 School - Related Questions
 - 2 County-Wide Items
 - 1 Presidential Election Question

SURVEY '99: BACKGROUND

- Work began more than a year ago by the 1997-98 Youth Commission.
- Sponsored a seminar in February, 1998 by the College of William & Mary's Center for Public Policy Research: "Basics of Survey Design and Administration".
- Topics included:
 - Survey Design: Reliability, validity, sampling, open and closed-ended questions, and avoidance of bias.
 - Survey Administration

SURVEY '99: DESIGN PROCESS

- Decision to make the survey a year long process.
- First draft of questions completed by 1997-98 Commission.
- Numerous drafts by this year's Commission.
- Drafts critiqued by graduate students at the College of William & Mary's Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy.
- Draft review by the Board of Supervisors and School Division Administration.

SURVEY '99: COMPONENTS

1. Machine-scored bubble sheets (closed-ended questions)
 - a. General Information: 8 Questions
 - b. School Issues: 12 Questions
 - c. County Issues: 14 Questions
 - Sheets designed, printed, and evaluated by York County School Division Information Services' staff.
2. Short answer surveys (open-ended questions)
 - Likes/dislikes about school & county experience
 - Randomly distributed (1 per class)
 - Reviewed by Youth Commission
3. Video Interviews

SURVEY '99: ADMINISTRATION

- February 10, 11, 12
- English Classes in the County's Public High Schools

SURVEY '99: RESPONDENTS

MACHINE-SCORED BUBBLE SHEETS

2,212 RESPONDENTS

SHORT-ANSWER SURVEYS

87 RESPONDENTS

SURVEY '99: RESPONDENTS

BUBBLE SHEETS	2,212	
SHORT-ANSWER	87	
	2,299	Total Respondents

SURVEY '99: SAMPLING

TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 2,299
(Machine-Scored & Short Answer)

TOTAL ENROLLMENT- FEB 11, 1999: 3,355

• SAMPLE SIZE: 68.5%

- SAMPLE REPRESENTATION:
Close correlations between sample population and total school population when comparing these 4 variables:

Gender Race Grade School

SURVEY '99: RESULTS

- County Issues
- Machine-Scored Surveys
- "Omits" & "Multi-Marked" Responses

SURVEY '99: OVERALL SATISFACTION

"Do you generally enjoy living in York County?"

Very Much	19%
It's Okay	53%
I Usually Don't Like It	11%
No, I Don't Like It At All	14%

SURVEY '99: COUNTY LIFE & PROGRAMS

"Which of the following areas in York County would you rate either 'Good' or 'Excellent'?"

- The overall quality of life: 41%
- The public library's materials and programs: 34%
- The youth recreation programs or leagues: 33%
- The County's schools: 32%
- The County's parks and athletic fields: 28%
- I'm not satisfied with any of the above: 20%

SURVEY '99: COMMUNICATIONS

"Do you believe you can express your opinion to County officials on important issues?"

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Yes: | 27% |
| No: | 36% |
| I don't know: | 32% |

"Do you believe that County officials value the opinions of high school students?"

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Yes: | 11% |
| No: | 59% |
| I don't know: | 26% |

SURVEY '99: SAFETY

"Do you generally believe that your neighborhood is a safe place to live?"

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Always: | 42% |
| Most of the Time: | 46% |
| Only Sometimes: | 6% |
| Almost Never: | 3% |

SURVEY '99: COUNTY CURFEW

"Do you feel that York County's 12:30 a.m. curfew for those under 18 is effective in reducing crime?"

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| Yes | 21% |
| No | 56% |
| I don't know | 19% |

SURVEY '99: COUNTY'S APPEARANCE

"How would you rate York County's physical appearance (roads, businesses, etc.)?"

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| It's Beautiful: | 6% |
| Most Areas Look Nice: | 66% |
| It Needs a Lot of Improvement: | 20% |
| It's Ugly: | 6% |

SURVEY '99: STUDENT SPENDING

"About how much money do you usually spend during a week? (On food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline, etc.)"

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| None | 3% |
| \$1-5 | 7% |
| \$5-10 | 15% |
| \$10-20 | 26% |
| \$20-30 | 20% |
| Over \$30 | 23% |

Approximately \$56.900 per week

SURVEY '99: LOCALITY PREFERENCES

"Where do you most often 'hang out' with friends?
(Just mark one)"

York County	42%
Williamsburg/James City County	9%
Gloucester	1%
Hampton	14%
Newport News	25%
Poquoson	1%

SURVEY '99: HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAMS

"What do you think about recreational programs sponsored by York County for high school students such as 'Skate, Rattle, and Roll', or a county-wide dance?"

I like them a lot:	7%
They are okay:	26%
I don't like them	10%
I have never attended them	54%

SURVEY '99: ENTERTAINMENT

"Where within York County do you most enjoy hanging out with friends?"

Bowling Alley (AMF York Lanes Rt.17)	8%
Ice Palace	3%
Restaurants	9%
Skate, Rattle, & Roll	1%
Shopping Centers	17%
There isn't a place in York County where my friends and I like to go	45%

SURVEY '99: COUNTY TEEN ACTIVITIES

"From the following, what activities would you most want York County to offer for teens outside of school?
(Mark your top two choices)"

Trips (Washington DC, etc.)	46%
Recreation Center (or discount at the James City/Williamsburg Community Center if living in Bruton)	24%
County-wide dances at schools	23%
Clubs (4-H, etc.)	14%
Lessons (music, art, sports, etc.)	13%
None of the above	25%

SURVEY '99: VOLUNTEERISM

"Would you commit to helping other people living in the County by volunteering 2-4 hours of your time a month?"

Yes, and I would make the time:	24%
Yes, if I could find the time:	39%
No, I don't have the time now:	19%
No, I am not interested right now:	16%

Over 1,600 potential volunteer service hours per month!

SURVEY '99: LIVING AS AN ADULT IN YORK COUNTY

"Would you like to live in York County as an adult?"

Yes	16%
No	51%
I don't know	30%

SURVEY '99: VIDEO INTERVIEWS

- 69 Students interviewed at the County's four public high schools.
 - 46 Respondents from the short-answer surveys
 - 23 Additional students

- 21 Interviews appearing on video clip

"What do you like most about living in York County?"

"What do you like least about living in York County and what would you suggest to improve things?"

SURVEY '99: COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

• RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

- "teen center", "community center", "recreation center", "activities center", etc.
- to be with friends, sports, working out, swimming, teen activities.

• RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Possible trips (nation's capital, skiing, rafting, hiking, biking, etc.)
- Age appropriate activities for high school-aged teens

- Include teens in the planning process for the above to help insure optimum use.

SURVEY '99: COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

• CONCERNS OVER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION

- mainly expressed by students at Tabb, Grafton and York High Schools in the middle and lower sections of York County

- Educate students on existing policies.

- Solicit student input to further address these issues.